

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078714

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:HGMOEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 078714

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 078714 ACTION PARIS APRIL 7TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 078714

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENDERS ITV INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT OF DEPARTMENT NOON
PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 7 RELATING TO ENDERS ITV INTERVIEW:

QUOTE. Q. BOB, DO YOU HAVE ANY CLARIFICATION OR CONFIRMATION OF THE STATEMENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS SUPPOSEDLY MADE ON BRITISH TELEVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT AMERICAN POLICY WAS TO DESTROY THE OIL CARTEL?

A. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WHAT MR. ENDERS ALLEGEDLY SAID WAS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. AND JUST LET ME REVIEW WHAT OUR ATTITUDE IS WITH REGARD TO OPEC AND WITH REGARD TO THE CURRENT PRODUCER-CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING THAT IS CURRENTLY GOING ON IN PARIS. IT BEGAN TODAY. OUR PARTICIPATION THERE REFLECTS OUR DETERMINATION TO TRY AND SEEK A CONTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 078714

MINATION TO TRY AND SEEK A CONTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS

RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC NATIONS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY OIL CONSUMERS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT MEETING IS TO TRY AND SET UP, DISCUSS, A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR A POSSIBLE

FUTURE PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING AND TO DISCUSS SUCH NON-SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECTS AS THE PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENTUAL MEETING.

AND OTHER THAN THAT, KEN, I THINK I CAN'T ADD ANYTHING MORE TO WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THE RECORD -- ABOVE ALL, WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON THE RECORD IN VARIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH REGARD TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ENERGY PROBLEM AND THE AVENUES THAT WE'RE TAKING TO TRY AND SOLVE THIS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM.

Q. IS IT AMERICAN POLICY TO BREAK THE CARTEL?
THAT'S THE QUESTION I WAS GOING TO ASK SPECIFICALLY.

A. WE, OBVIOUSLY, HOPE FOR IMPROVED MARKET CONDITIONS IN THE ENERGY FIELD. THAT IS VERY WELL KNOWN BUT THE QUESTION IS, DICK: HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT IT?

YOU ALL KNOW, SOME OF YOU FAR BETTER THAN I, WHAT OUR STRATEGY IS, IF YOU WILL -- WHAT OUR POLICY IS -- TO TRY AND SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE A FINANCIAL PROBLEM, AND THERE HAS BEEN THIS \$25 BILLION SAFETY NET ESTABLISHED.

OBVIOUSLY, THE OIL CONSUMERS, WE BELIEVE -- AND IT HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE OTHER OIL CONSUMERS -- MUST CONSERVE.

AND, THIRDLY, IF WE'RE GOING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, WE MUST DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

FOR ANY ELABORATION OF THESE POINTS, I SUPPOSE THE MOST DEFINITIVE DOCUMENT THAT I CAN REFER YOU TO IS THE SECRETARY'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH ON THIS.
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PAGE 03 STATE 078714

Q. COULD YOU THEN EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN -- THAT IS, ENDERS' REMARKS WERE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT?

AGM THIS IS MY UNDERSTANDING. I SAW TWO TICKERS ON THIS. WE HAD A PRELIMINARY CABLE IN, KEN, FROM ENDERS STATING THIS. AND AT THE MOMENT THAT'S ALL I CAN GIVE YOU BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I KNOW --

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE --

A. -- THAT'S ALL I'VE RECEIVED.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE THE TEXT OF THE ENDERS' -- WHATEVER IT WAS?

A. I'M NOT SURE THAT I'VE SEEN A FULL TEXT. I'VE SEEN SOME TICKERS ON IT, AND MAYBE A FBIS. WHETHER THAT REPRESENTS THE FULL TEXT OR NOT, I'D RATHER WAIT ON A QUESTION LIKE THIS.

Q. BUT YOU EXPECT TO GET THE TEXT, DON'T YOU?;

A. WELL, I CERTAINLY EXPECT TO GET THE FULL TEXT; AND I THINK IT'S BETTER TO TRY AND LOOK AND SEE WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID.

Q. DOES WHAT YOU'RE SAYING CONSTITUTE A DENIAL THAT WE'RE TRYING TO DESTROY THE OIL CARTEL?

A. I THINK MAYBE WHAT I QUIBBLE WITH, JERRY, IS THE USE OF THE VERB "DESTROY". I THINK THAT THERE CAN BE A, SHALL WE SAY, PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSUMERS AND THE PRODUCERS. AND BY "CONSUMERS", I DON'T LIMIT IT TO JUST THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES; BUT THERE ARE OTHER CONSUMERS -- SHALL WE SAY, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- WHICH FACE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS ALSO. AND I THINK THE WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ENERGY FOR EVERYBODY IS TO WORK TOGETHER AND NOT TRY AND HAVE CONFRONTATION. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT EFFORT THAT IS GOING ON.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 078714

Q. BOB, IN YOUR PREPARED REMARKS -- I ASSUME THEY WERE PREPARED -- YOU WERE SAYING THAT YOU ARE SEEKING A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEC COUNTRIES, NOT WITH OPEC. BUT IS THERE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OPEC AND OPEC COUNTRIES?

A. I'M UNAWARE OF ANY DISTINCTION.

Q. SO, IF --

A. I DIDN'T FOCUS ON THAT PARTICULAR NUANCE, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU.

Q. SO, IF YOU ARE SEEKING SUCH A RELATIONSHIP, THEN

IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DESTROY IT.

A. YES

Q. SO YOU ARE, IN FACT, DENYING ANY SUCH INTENTION.

A. WELL, THE QUESTION OF DESTROYING IT, BRINGING ABOUT ITS DEMISE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT --I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE PURPOSE. SO MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DROOLED ON HERE; I SHOULD HAVE JUST AGREED WITH YOU.

Q. AGREED WITH WHAT?

A. WITH WHAT YOU SAID HERE: "ARE YOU DENYING THIS?"
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